

The Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks

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REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for the telephone discussions on January 15, 2004.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 7, 9-16, 21 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Mills et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,425,027), referred to as Mills. The Examiner rejected claims 3-6 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Mills. The Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Mills and Vaisanen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,356,967) or Bremer (U.S. Patent No. 5,282,112).

Applicant submits amended claims 1, 15 and 29 to confirm our agreement in the telephone discussions of January 15, 2003. The amendments to claims 1, 15 and 29 are merely for clarifying the amendments submitted in the response to the previous office action. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments would not bring any new matter or new issue to the claims. It is respectfully submitted that present claims 1-31 are new and unobvious in view of the cited reference.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the rejections in the Office Action and early notification of allowable subject matter.

Respectfully Submitted,


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